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Equal Access to a Good High School Education Will Help Reduce Poverty in Haiti by Preparing More Students for College Work

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Abstract

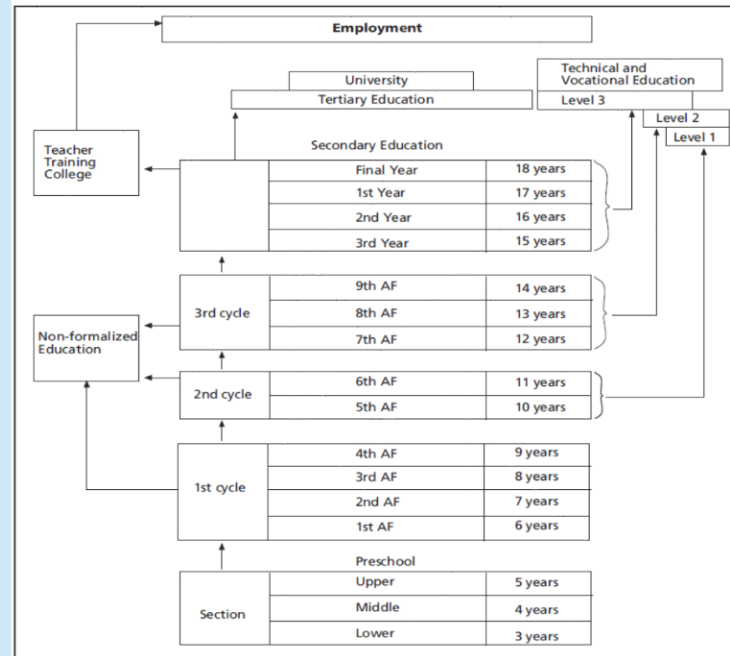
This research advocates for building more public high schools in Haiti to prepare more Haitians for higher education to transform their lives and their communities.

INTRODUCTION

- First free black republic in the entire world (1804)
- From prosperity to chronic poverty (less than us \$2 a day)
- Poorest economically country in the Western Hemisphere
- Poor leadership, debt, corruption, violence and instability
- Extremely vulnerable to different kinds of natural disasters
- Weaknesses of the education system

The Education System, UNESCO/MENJS 2000

Figure 1 The Haitian education system

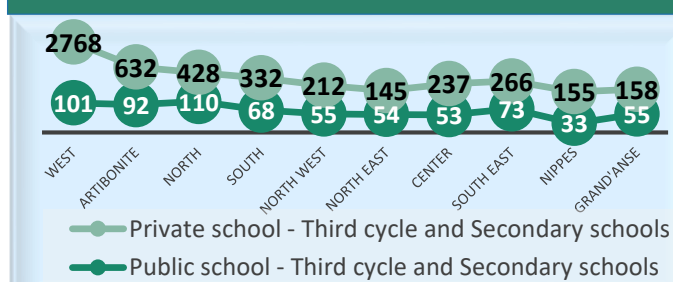


Source: UNESCO/MENJS 2000

EDUCATION IN HAITI

- Haiti ranks 177/186 in the world for national spending on education
- 80% of schools in Haiti are private schools (often very expensive)
- Teaching language issues (only 5% of Haitians speak French fluently)
- 80% of teachers are not qualified to teach
- Overcrowded classrooms mostly in public high schools (200 pupils)
- High rate of drop out (for want of money, repetitive failure)
- ❖ In 2017, 298 high schools had 0% of results for the last national exams
- Only 2% of pupils from high school go to college
- 16% of students will graduate from college

Public and private Middle Schools (Third Cycle) and High Schools (Secondary) in the 10 Departments in Haiti (2019-2020)



Source: Ministry of National Education and Professional Training (2019-2020)

Access to Higher Education in the 10 departments in Haiti

In 2011	• 50,767 registration • 50% enrollment
In 2012	• 61,742 registration • 53% enrollment
In 2013	• 70,628 registration • 48% enrollment

Source: Ministry of National Education and Professional Training (2011-2013)

Distribution of the Institutions of Higher Education in Haiti by department (2012-2013)

DEPARTMENT	SECTOR		TOTAL
	PUBLIC	NON PUBLIC	
West	9	92	101
South-East	2	0	2
North	4	5	9
North-East	1	0	1
Artibonite	3	7	10
Center	1	4	5
South	3	3	6
Grande-Anse	0	3	3
North-West	2	2	4
Nippes	0	1	1
ALL TOGETHER	25	117	142

Source: Ministry of National Education and Professional Training (2011-2013)

CONCLUSION

The **problems** in the Education System in Haiti are **multiple**: lack of qualified teachers; poor quality education; few public schools; several non licensed private schools; teaching language issues; frustrated teachers with low salaries etc. Therefore, **increasing the number of public high schools** will not solve the problems, but **it remains an important step forward for change.**

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Nelson Mandela

RECOMMENDATION

- Creation of a free public and universal education system for all primary school-age students in Haiti.
- Necessity to build more public high schools and colleges in rural and urban areas in Haiti.
- Great control over the quality and the school fees of the private schools.
- Reconsidering of the systematic general supervision of the private and public schools.
- Create more work opportunities within the country to reduce the 80% human capital flight.

Haiti needs other Alexandre Pétion public High Schools (like this one in Bel-Air, Port-au-Prince, West, inaugurated in 2015) in all of its urban and rural areas.



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